



**City of Bloomington
Environmental Commission**

The mission of the Environmental Commission is to advise the City of Bloomington on how its actions and policies may preserve and enhance the quality of Bloomington's environment, including the life-supporting processes that natural ecological systems provide to humans and other organisms.

AGENDA

15 September 2016

City Hall—McCloskey Room

1. Introductions

Present: Dedaimia Whitney, Linda Thompson, Chris Neggers, Sarah Green, Wendy Read Wertz, Nick Kappas, Mike Litwin, Chad Roeder, Riley Zipper, David Parkhurst, Dave Debikey, Ramsay Harik, Andy Marrs, Chaim Julian

Absent: Kriste Lindberg

Guests: Dave Rollo

Riley Zipper is the new SPEA Service Corps Fellow that will be working with the Environmental Commission. He is a first-year SPEA graduate student in the MPA program. He will be starting to work on the habitat network plan.

2. Approval of minutes

Approved by voice vote: 11 yes

3. Public comment

4. Dave Rollo

- The high density of deer at Griffy Lake is a threat to the ecosystem and overall biodiversity of the area.
- The city council had allowed sharpshooting for deer at Griffy Lake in the past, but the administration at the time blocked it.
- The most recent attempt to bait the deer failed due to an unforeseen excessive acorn crop which led to the deer not being lured by the bait.
- Tim Carter from Ball State has studied deer. He has found that deer like edge habitat which is common in urban areas, and deer are not as much of a problem in rural areas because of predators and legal hunting. Vehicle collision is the primary threat to urban deer.
- Deer are also a threat to other natural areas in town, as well as gardens, pets, and drivers of vehicles.
- Bow hunting of deer is allowed in the city.
- One option would be for neighbors to either bow hunt or get someone to hunt the deer in their neighborhood.
- Other policy options could involve passing an ordinance against feeding deer or for increasing fence heights.
- Sharpshooting is not as good of an idea, and some would be highly opposed to it.
- There have been deer poisoning in some neighborhoods, but it can be a risk if other animals get the poison.
- Coyotes are increasing around Bloomington, and they could continue to increase with the high deer population.

- One suggestion is to start a deer management team that would track deer, vehicle collisions, and mitigation efforts. There was a deer task force in the past but it dissolved.
- The EC could be an advocate for addressing the issue and also write a letter to the mayor.

5. Presentation: Nicholas Kappas, “Influencing Public Policy”

- Some potential pros as a commission would be achieving a portion of the commission’s mission, participating in the city planning process, and being a unified voice for citizens of Bloomington in environmental matters.
- Some potential cons as a commission would be overreaching role and becoming a lobbyist, advocating for policy the citizens don’t want, and being stigmatized as an advocacy group instead of a volunteer advisory commission.
- The steps for influencing public policy include:
 - Learn the problem and gather data
 - Plan and develop goals
 - Take action such as writing letters, making calls, setting up personal meetings, and or attending committee or council hearings. First you must determine which action will be the most effective.
 - Propose solutions to the problem by having something ready to address the issue, identifying resources/allies/opponents, and developing counterarguments
 - Prepare for the potential outcomes: policy is either adopted, tabled, pushed for study, rejected and more data is required, or outright rejected
- The EC can do a lot more to influence public policy. The EC could be more effective by going to the state legislature, talking at city council meetings, going to plan commission meetings, and talking to the mayor.

6. Discussion from 2016 working groups (A cycle)

BEAP**

- The text is complete, but the BEAP needs pictures and quotes. Pictures with people are of more interest. The pictures must come from the EC. Dedaimia would like the pictures within the next thirty days.
- Dedaimia would like to get a quote on printing up copies to have for the mayor, city council, city departments, and to have some for the birthday party. Another option would be to put the BEAP on flashdrives to give out.
- The completed BEAP will also go up on the City’s website.

ECPC

- Tech Park
 - Pedcor is proposing apartments between Rogers St and the B Line. The apartments will be workforce priced.
 - It will be the greenest building in Bloomington with the entire roof covered in solar panels, pervious pavers, shared electric cars, rain garden, swale, and a graywater capturing system.
- Adams Village, off Tapp Rd
 - The area is PUD, and it is partially designated commercial and industrial, but they would like to change it to high-intensity residential. The plan is to build an apartment complex.
- Patterson Park
 - This is in the last phase of planning. It is a PUD. There will be apartments with commercial space on the first floor.
 - There will be angled parking and also structured parking.
 - They will restore a creek.
- Comfort Suites
 - There are no updates.
- Bloomington Bagel Company
 - They will be coming back with changes.

Plan Commission

- Park South, Henderson and Hillside
 - These apartments will have a greenroof, beehives, solar panels, a white roof, and a bioswale. There will be a multi-use path on the east side of Henderson.
 - Parking was an issue. The developers opened up some parking for employees of the commercial spaces. There will be 21 spaces on the street, 16 of those spaces will be back-end angled parking.
 - It passed with 8 votes.
- Tech Park apartments on Morton
 - There will be 14 single apartments and commercial space below.
 - It passed 7-2.
- Bloomington Bagel Company
 - They are asking for 100% impervious surface.
 - There will be two raised beds in the front.
 - It will have some concrete walls because it is easier to clean graffiti off of it.
 - They say they will use green building practices.
 - They are proposing micro apartments, which are 366 square feet. There isn't an ordinance about micro apartments.
 - They are seeking a height variance.
 - This will be decided at the next meeting.

Waste

- Sarah wrote up a report based on the 81 completed recycling surveys.
- The group hasn't heard back yet about a SPEA capstone class.
- Composting
 - Ramsay made contact with Greg Walton who is the sole owner and operator of Green with Indy, a compost pickup service. He does 90% commercial pickup and 10% residential. He hauls the compost to the south side of Indy and partners with GreenCycle.
 - Greg Walton is interested in working in Bloomington. Some options would be to talk to the Bloomington Independent Restaurant Association, the IU athletic department, or the neighborhood associations.

Water

- Mike found a homeowner interested in the graywater pilot project from Green Acres neighborhood. The working group is going to make a more finalized plan for the EC to vote on.
- The group finished recommendations for the master plan.
- Kriste has been involved with Adopt-a-Stream at Childs School.

7. Old business

Sustainability reporting (letter of support?)

- The EC can write a letter to city council saying they support writing a sustainability report. The report could be something that provides data every year.

Birthday party

- The plan is to host the party in early December.
- The Buskirk-Chumley will be \$800, and it will be \$250 less if they serve drinks.
- Cake from Bloomingfoods will be about \$400 for 300 people.
- The most pressing thing is to secure rights for the movie since that will not be from a pre-approved vendor. The rights for the movie will be \$300.

8. New business

360° review

- There will be a new working group reporting structure at meetings so that only half of the working groups report at each meeting since the agenda has been crowded.
- The EC adopted a midterm review as part of its permanent structure.

- Each working group should limit itself to two big projects, and each project should have a point person who is not necessarily the chair of the group. If there are multi-year projects, then they should be staggered.
- The EC will have another bucket list meeting in January, and the EC can get the mayor's input from what he expects from the EC.
- The EC should also give a better orientation to new commissioners in the future.

9. Commissioner announcements

10. Adjourn